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[CLICK HERE FOR THE DIRECTOR OF ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL'S REPORT DATED MAY 11, 2016](#)



SACHI A. HAMAI
Chief Executive Officer

County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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(213) 974-1101
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December 21, 2015

To: Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, Chair
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Sheila Kuehl
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: Sachi A. Hamai
Chief Executive Officer

Marcia Mayeda
Director of Animal Care and Control

Board of Supervisors
HILDA L. SOLIS
First District

MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
Second District

SHEILA KUEHL
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

REPORT BACK ON DETERMINING THE COST OF SUBSIDIZING AND IDENTIFYING FUNDING SOURCES FOR DOG ADOPTIONS FOR A THREE-MONTH PILOT PROGRAM (ITEM NO. 34, AGENDA OF OCTOBER 20, 2015)

On October 20, 2015, a motion by Supervisor Antonovich and Supervisor Kuehl instructed the Director of Animal Care and Control (Department) and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to report back to the Board on: (1) identifying a three-month period of time in 2015 to determine how many dog adoptions took place; (2) identifying a comparable three-month period in 2016 for purposes of conducting a pilot program of subsidized adoptions to determine whether the number of adoptions increased from the previous year; and (3) determining the cost of subsidizing such adoptions and identifying funding sources to sustain the program.

2015 Dog Adoption Review Period

Pet adoptions were analyzed by the Department over the past fiscal year. The Department identified a number of factors that impacted the current adoption program, such as public adoptions, adoptions by rescue groups, and reduced rate adoptions. In order to respond to the Board's motion and establish a solid baseline for evaluation, the Department has initiated a holiday themed pet adoption special event. This special pet adoption event will run from December 15, 2015 through March 15, 2016. During this

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period, dog adoptions will be reduced from \$115 to \$15 for dogs that have been at an animal care center longer than seven days. Since pricing is not a factor for the highly adoptable dogs, this program will allow the Department to focus on the dogs in most need.

At the completion of this pilot period, the Department will analyze the impact of the pilot program in terms of the number of dogs adopted, the total revenue generated, and any change in the average length of stay for dogs in the animal care centers. These results, along with recommendations for further action will be submitted to the Board.

Proposed Pilot Program Cost and Funding Sources

The Department will absorb the revenue loss during the three month pilot program (which is estimated at \$100 per adopted dog). The annualized costs to fully implement this program is yet to be determined, as it is not known how much of an increase in adoptions may occur that can offset any potential revenue loss. Therefore, the Department will track all revenue generated by the program and make recommendations for subsidizing the cost of such adoptions and potential funding sources at the completion of the pilot program.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Sheila Williams, Public Safety at (213) 974-1155, or Marcia Mayeda, Animal Care and Control at (562) 728-4610.

SAH:JJ:MM
SW:CE:cc

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel



Marcia Mayeda
Director

County of Los Angeles
Department of Animal Care and Control
Administrative Office
5898 Cherry Avenue
Long Beach, California 90805
(562) 728-4610 • Fax (562) 422-3408
<http://animalcare.lacounty.gov>



May 11, 2016

**Animal Care Center
(ACC) Locations**

Agoura ACC
29525 Agoura Rd.
Agoura, CA 91301
(818) 991-0071

Baldwin Park ACC
4275 N. Elton St.
Baldwin Park, CA 91706
(626) 962-3577

Carson/Gardena ACC
216 W. Victoria St.
Gardena, CA 90248
(310) 523-9566

Castaic ACC
31044 N. Charlie Cyn.
Road
Castaic, CA 91384
(661) 257-3191

Downey ACC
11258 S. Garfield Ave.
Downey, CA 90242
(562) 940-6898

Lancaster ACC
5210 W. Avenue I
Lancaster, CA 93536
(661) 940-4191

TO: Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, Chair
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Sheila Kuehl
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: Marcia Mayeda
Director

**REPORT BACK ON DETERMINING THE COST OF SUBSIDIZING AND
IDENTIFYING FUNDING SOURCES FOR DOG ADOPTIONS FOR A
THREE-MONTH PILOT PROGRAM (ITEM NO. 34, AGENDA OF
OCTOBER 20, 2015)**

Background

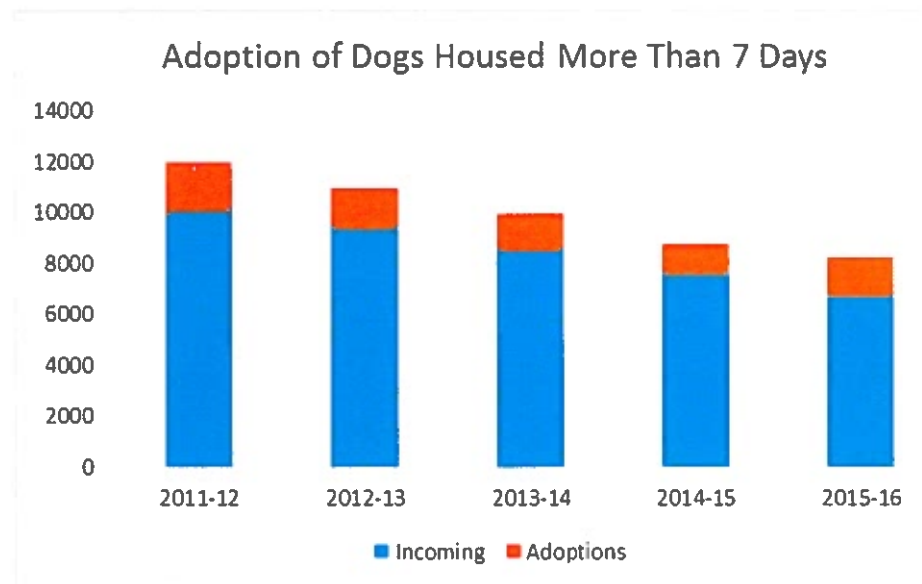
On October 20, 2015, a motion by Mayor Antonovich and Supervisor Kuehl instructed the Director of Animal Care and Control (Department) and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to report back to the Board on: (1) identifying a three-month period of time in 2015 to determine how many dog adoptions took place; (2) identifying a comparable three-month period in 2016 for purposes of conducting a pilot program of subsidized adoptions to determine whether the number of adoptions increased from the previous year; and (3) determining the cost of subsidizing such adoptions and identifying funding sources to sustain the program.

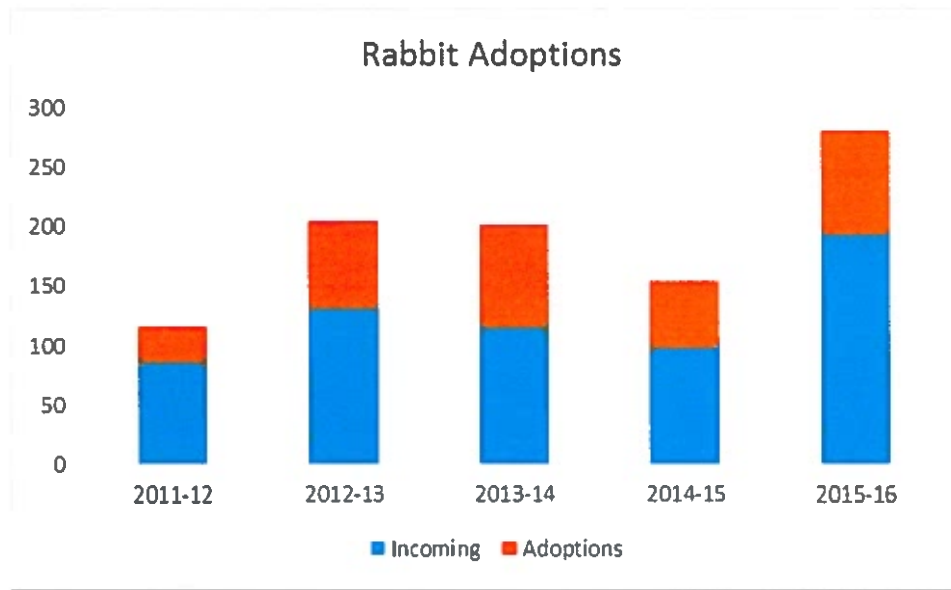
On December 21, 2015 the Department and the CEO provided a report back on this motion. The report indicated that the Department had analyzed pet adoptions over the past fiscal year and identified a number of factors that impacted the adoption program. The report further stated that in order to respond to the Board's motion and establish a solid baseline for evaluation, the Department would initiate a holiday themed pet adoption special event. This special pet adoption event ran from December 15, 2015 through March 15, 2016. During this period, dog adoptions were reduced from \$115 to \$15 for dogs that were at an animal care center for longer than seven days.

Additionally, the Department felt it would be beneficial to explore pricing impact on rabbit adoptions. Rabbit adoption fees were reduced from \$65 to \$15. Cat adoptions were not studied, as they are already fully subsidized by the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Results of Pilot Program

The reduction in adoption fees for dogs and rabbits did not demonstrate a remarkable impact on adoptions. For the three-month period of time between December 15 and March 15, the total number of adoptions of dogs that were in the care centers for seven days or longer and rabbits only marginally increased over the prior year. However, this number was more similar to prior years, demonstrating that the adoption numbers remained relatively stable over time.

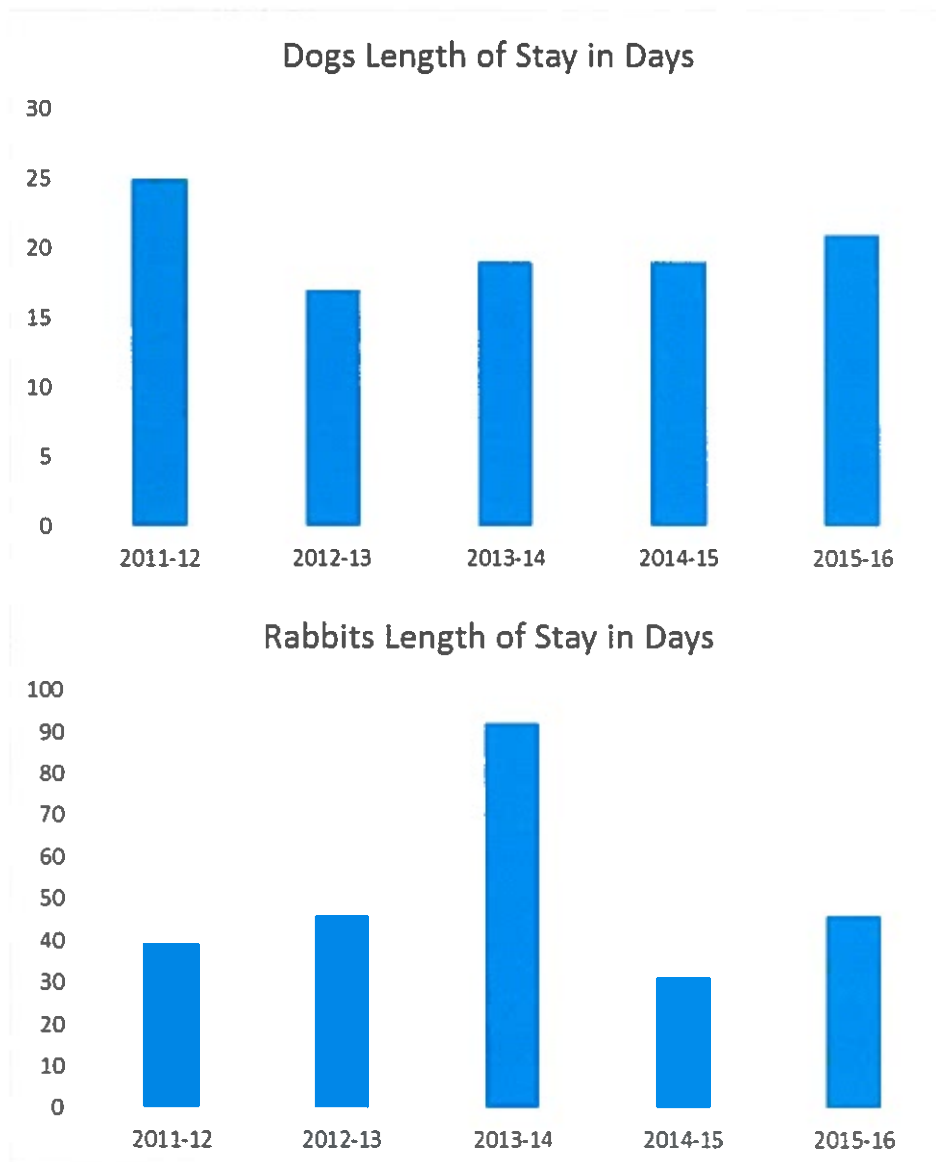




Length of Stay

The reduced adoption prices also did not have a significant impact in the length of stay for these animals in the care centers. The factor that has most contributed to the reduced length of stay for dogs is the transport program the Department has established with a number of nonprofit organizations. This program transports adoptable small dogs from Department animal care centers to other animal welfare organizations who have the room to accept these animals for adoption into new homes.

Rabbit adoption statistics are more influenced by the adoptability of the rabbits and the number of rabbits in our care. Rabbits that are poorly socialized have limited opportunities for adoption. The number of rabbits arriving each year can vary depending on the number of rabbit litters that are impounded by the Department.



Proposed Pilot Program Cost and Funding Sources

Reduction of the adoption fees resulted in a loss of \$64,150 in revenue. To assist the Department, the Los Angeles County Animal Care Foundation provided a generous one time grant of \$64,150 offset this lost revenue. The Department's request for the Board approval to accept this grant is made in a separate Board letter. However, this subsidy will not be continued.

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Conclusion

The reduction of adoption fees for dogs and rabbits did not have a significant effect on improving the live release rates for these animals nor shortening their length of stay. The Department has determined that this protocol should not be continued.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me at (562) 728-4610.

MM:in

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c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
Chief Executive Office
County Counsel